

Winetrading Ltd. After taking over at the Cantina Sociale di Canelli in 2004, a company on the verge of bankruptcy, Mr. Marino has guided the business to a position of financial stability. In recent years, the wine cellar has enjoyed annual profits in excess of €20 million and produced over 14 million bottles.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Roberto Marmo and thanking him for his years of service in the Republic of Italy and influence in the United States.

2012 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOLS

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the 269 schools that have been selected by the U.S. Department of Education as 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious honor recognizes the schools' accomplishments in improving student academic achievement and in attaining overall academic excellence. I am proud to report that ten of these schools are in Maryland, having previously been selected as Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools on the basis of sustained high performance or significant improvement in reading and mathematics as measured by Maryland State Assessments. I am particularly proud of the accomplishments of the four National Blue Ribbon Schools—Crofton Meadows Elementary School, Woodholme Elementary School, St. Augustine School, and Saint Peter's School—that are currently or will soon be located in Maryland's 3rd District.

The passage of No Child Left Behind in 2002 charged schools with additional responsibilities to measure and report academic progress. These new requirements set a high bar, requiring schools to demonstrate gains in student proficiency and improvements in closing the achievement gap. The National Blue Ribbon Schools exemplify the goals of No Child Left Behind, and serve as exemplars of how best to help children reach their highest potential. As we work toward a long-overdue reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Act (ESEA), we must carefully review the successes of the National Blue Ribbon Schools to identify strategies and best practices that can be shared, and which other schools may benefit from examining and adopting. I look forward to continuing to support the work of the National Blue Ribbon awardees and all schools in Maryland, to ensure that they have the tools and resources they need to continue helping students excel.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TODD
HARRISON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Todd Harrison, the former Chief Oversight Counsel to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Mr. Harrison was

hired by my colleague Mr. UPTON upon attaining chairmanship on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Formerly a state and federal prosecutor, Mr. Harrison's single-minded commitment to oversight contributed immensely to the atmosphere of accountability fostered by committee staff.

As a husband and father commuting to Washington from New York City on a weekly basis, Mr. Harrison sacrificed greatly to maintain a top-notch oversight staff. His complete dedication to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation was exemplified in the work he did with me.

I'm sure that I speak on behalf of every member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation in saying that Mr. Harrison was a treasured asset and will be missed dearly.

HONORING LYDIA MARIE ELLIOTT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Lydia Marie Elliott. A dedicated educator, homemaker and active community member, Mrs. Elliott and her husband of 65 years, the late Henry Elliott, were stalwart members of the Bay Area community for five decades. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend, Mrs. Lydia Marie Elliott will be forever remembered for her warmth and compassion. With her passing on November 15, 2012, we are reminded of her life's journey and the joyful legacy she inspired.

Lydia Marie Pitts Elliott was born on November 12, 1923, and was the fifth of Jesse and Bell Beatrice Pitts' eight children. After attending Mark Hanna High School in Tullahassee and meeting the love of her life, Henry Wilford Elliott who taught Math and Science there, Lydia and Henry were married on January 11, 1943. While her husband served overseas, Mrs. Elliott earned her bachelor's degree at Oklahoma's Langston University, joining Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and beginning a lifetime commitment to the organization and her fellow sorority sisters.

After being reunited with her husband in Japan, Mrs. Elliott enjoyed traveling the globe as an army spouse, visiting many of the world's major cities and countries and giving birth to the couple's two sons during that time. Upon Mr. Elliott's retirement from the army, the family moved to the Bay Area, where Henry became the first African American middle and high school principal in Vallejo, CA. Over the course of 25 years, Mrs. Elliott served the Richmond Unified School District, teaching arts and crafts and advancing to the position of head teacher. She continued her studies in education while actively participating with local community organizations like the Order of the Eastern Star, Beta Pi Sigma Sorority, Inc., the National Council of Negro Women and the NAACP. She was also a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. reaching the title of "Golden Soror" in 1997 for her outstanding 50-year membership and acting as a charter member of a local

Kappa Beta Omega chapter in Vallejo, CA. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott were also church members and avid volunteers, dedicating their time to organizations like the Omega Boys Club and The Adkins Project.

A woman of many talents, Mrs. Elliott was known for her fine sense of fashion, her penchant for collecting and her excellent cooking. Above all, she was incredibly committed to the wellbeing of her family, always making ample time for loved ones and friends.

On a personal note, I have known Lydia longer than anyone in my life except for my immediate family. My mother, Mildred, met Lydia in 1948 and they became the best of friends. She was my sister Beverly's Godmother and she was part of our extended family. My mother, two sisters, Beverly and Mildred, and I loved her; and we have many wonderful memories of Lydia, her beloved late husband, Hank, and her sons Henry Jr. and Terence. We will miss her tremendously, but we thank God for her friendship—and for the many joyous times we spent with Lydia and her family.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a wonderful human being, Mrs. Lydia Marie Elliott. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our community is indebted to her many civic contributions over the decades and her legacy of love and compassion will continue in the years to come. My thoughts are with Lydia's family and her extended group of loved ones as we celebrate her incredible life. May her soul rest in peace.

IN TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COL.
JOHN MORIARITY (RET.)

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to U.S. Army Col. John Moriarity (Ret.), who chaired my U.S. Military Academy Nominating Board for 26 years.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Col. Moriarity and the rest of the board, who represented different branches of the armed services, year after year selected the best and the brightest from my district for our military academies. In my 26 years in Congress, they chose more than 250 exceptional young men and women for nomination to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

The cadets were challenged and tested for four years. In the end, they became U.S. military leaders charged with defending America and the ideals we cherish. We bid them Godspeed.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to my personal friend Col. John Moriarity (Ret.), both for his service to our country as a U.S. Army officer and for helping to select the next generation of our finest military officers.